

REMARKS

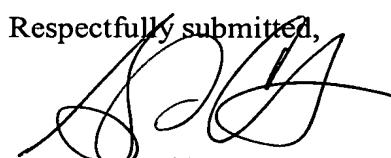
Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 2 is canceled. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein and in Applicants' Reply Brief; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and merely place the subject matter of canceled claim 2 into independent claim 1; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Examiner's Answer. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SPC/can

Date: December 1, 2003

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